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Against the Ever

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Chapter 1 by shad0scrib3

The Ever stood tall like a tree in the center of Jaeon, the City by the Sea. Mia loved gazing upon its intricate grooves and branches. The leaves were her favorite. They glowed a blood red hue, pulsating with the rhythm of the city's inhabitants.

When she was a girl she would often escape from school to make it to the Ever and simply stare at its majesty. Sometimes, if you timed it right, you could see the branches twist and turn, stretching as if it were tired of being in the same position for so long. It didn't always happen but when it did the Ever would emit a captivating hum only fully understood by those who happened to be around to witness it. It was like a cat's purr, except you could feel it gently vibrating your bones, creating a remarkable feeling of weightlessness and comfort. Mia felt it one day when she was 6 years old. Since then she would seize any opportunity to escape to the Ever so that she might feel it again. That is how she met Kye. He too had felt it many years ago and like Mia, was constantly drawn to it. They met by the Ever as kids and quickly became friends.

As the years passed, their friendship grew to become something else. The Ever's allure was no

longer just a place to escape to, it was a place where they could be themselves and feel safe. They were finding it harder to leave the city because they had found a home there. They had found a place where they could be who they wanted to be without judgment or fear of being rejected. They had found a place where they could be themselves and feel safe.

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where the Ever rose. Kye noticed that Mia was squeezing him tighter than usual. "Is everything okay?" he asked.

"I'm scared." she responded.

"About tomorrow?"

"Yes." Kye had turned eighteen last month which meant he'd be assigned a career. Mia still had a couple of years to go.

"I know. I'm scared too." He replied.

"What if they send you away, Kye?"

"Then I'll go away, for awhile. But then...I'll come back."

"You don't know if you'll come back."

"I will. You just keep coming here and one day like so many years ago, you will see me standing by the Ever and we'll be together again."

"That is so corny."

"I know! I could feel it crawling out. So much corn!" Kye made a sound like he was about to puke.

"Disgusting!" He made the sound again and she gently punched him in the rib cage.

"Ouch. Jeez, take it easy darlin."

"But really, Kye. What if you're assigned to the Front?"

"What if I'm assigned to the Ever?"

~~"Yeah right. like they're going to let you into the Ever"~~

They might be wrong. They might be right. It would be
interesting to see how the story would play out.
Ever going. Can you imagine?

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"Well if they do let you in there then I'll be able to explain why sometimes we have blackouts."

"Haha. Funny." There was a slight pause then he asked, "Do you already have a gown for tomorrow evening?"

"I was supposed to get a gown?"

"I want to show you off at the Grand Banquet."

"Don't you worry. I'll knock 'em dead."

"I can't wait."

"I'm going to miss you, Kye."

"I know."

The sun was gone and the Ever's glow more enchanting now than before. They embraced as if it was to be their last time. Tomorrow, after the Grand Graduation Banquet, Kye would find out where he was to be assigned. What he didn't know was that he'd already been picked out to go to the Ever and that as soon as he was taken there he would be killed like all other graduates sent to the Ever before him. It was a dark secret that only a few haunted souls knew. Tomorrow, Mia would inadvertently become one of those few and she'd never be the same again.

Chapter 2 by R



The Grand ball came. Mia looked stunning in her dress, and even surrounded by all the other stunning people, Kye only had eyes for her. They announced the jobs. They both stared open mouthed as Kye's position was revealed.

"The Ever." Mia mouthed. "I can't believe it. You're so honored."

"I won't ever get to see you again." Kye replied, holding her so tightly. He kissed her then, and it

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The Grand Ball ended with a bang. The noise from the crowd was deafening. Kye knew that, she passed in front of the stage, and he could see the excitement on his face. He was so happy to be here, and new names, to follow his dream. He was determined to make it happen.

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But she had had a life before him.

You wouldn't have guessed by her beauty, but Mia had been rebellious. She had cursed the system when her brother had been sent to the front, and she had broken in and sabotaged the transportation system countless times. Kye had changed her, in a way.

But she wasn't going to let that mildly pathetic kiss be her last. She knew there was no way they'd assign her to the Ever. But she couldn't let Kye leave her life.

She followed the guards through the streets, and caught the door before it closed to follow them down the endless stairs in to the caverns of the roots of the Ever. The guards left then, and Mia had to duck in to an alcove to avoid them.

Then she watched as Kye presented himself before the Ever's terminal,

And she watched as he fell down, a bullet through his head. Against reason she ran forward, to cradle the dead body of her one true love, the tears continuously streaming down her face.

"Hermia Ramirez." The Ever said in its chilling, monotonous voice. She looked up, trying to find a way to escape, and there was a click as the door locked behind her.

"I've been waiting for you."

Write a draft for chapter 3 of 8

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